

DESCRIPTION

ORGANIC EL LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE AND
LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY USING THE SAME

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an organic electroluminescent (EL) light emitting device and a liquid crystal display using the same. More particularly, the present invention relates to an organic EL light emitting
10 device emitting polarized light and a liquid crystal display using the same.

BACKGROUND ART

In recent years, liquid crystal displays (LSDs) have
15 been used, in place of CRTs, in various fields including T.V. sets, personal computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs). As displays, plasma displays, organic EL displays, inorganic EL displays and the like have also received attention, and commercialization of these displays
20 is now under way.

Among others, organic EL displays, which can emit light spontaneously and use a thin film, are expected as promising light and thin displays. Moreover, great pro-

gress has been made in development of materials lately. Actually, a material capable of emitting three colors of blue, green and red efficiently has been developed.

A liquid crystal display using an organic EL light emitting device as the backlight has been proposed in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication Nos. 61-153693 and 62-227121, for example. Also, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-316376 discloses use of an organic EL light emitting device emitting polarized light as the backlight to thereby omit one polarizer of a liquid crystal display, and discusses that this can not only reduce power consumption but also improve the light use efficiency.

The emission polarization ratio of the conventional organic EL light emitting device is about 20:1 at best, which is one-hundredth or less of the extinction polarization ratio (3000:1) of a polarizer presently used in a liquid crystal display. Note that herein the ratio in intensity between linearly polarized light rays orthogonal to each other is called the "emission polarization ratio" for the light emitted from an organic EL light emitting device, while the same ratio is called the "extinction polarization ratio" for the light transmitted by a polar-

izer.

For example, the aforementioned Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-316376 discloses enhancing the degree of alignment of an organic EL layer by means of rubbing, oblique evaporation or mechanical deposition. However, this method fails to provide a sufficiently high emission polarization ratio. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-204261 discloses a method in which a rubbed alignment film is placed between a light emitting layer and an anode electrode and a liquid crystalline light emitting material is aligned with the alignment film. This method fails to provide a sufficiently high emission polarization ratio, either.

If the emission polarization ratio of a backlight is low, the quality of black display decreases due to light leakage. Therefore, a sufficient contrast ratio will not be obtained without provision of a polarizer on the side of the backlight.

In view of the above problems, a main object of the present invention is providing an organic EL light emitting device having a higher emission polarization ratio than that conventionally obtained, and a liquid crystal display using such an organic EL light emitting device.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The organic EL light emitting device of the present invention has an organic EL light emitting layer and an
5 electrode for applying a voltage to the organic EL light emitting layer, wherein the organic EL light emitting layer includes a hyperbranched polymer layer having hyperbranched macromolecules uniaxially aligned with a degree of alignment of 0.95 or more and emits polarized light.

10 In a preferred embodiment, the hyperbranched polymer layer includes self-organized disc-shaped hyperbranched macromolecules. In another preferred embodiment, the hyperbranched polymer layer includes self-organized rod-shaped hyperbranched macromolecules. The hyperbranched
15 macromolecules preferably include dendrimers.

The hyperbranched macromolecules are preferably self-organized by electrostatic interaction or by hydrogen bonding.

The organic EL light emitting device of a preferred
20 embodiment further includes a wall structure having a side face roughly perpendicular to a surface of the hyperbranched polymer layer, wherein the hyperbranched macromolecules are aligned roughly in parallel with the side

face by interaction with the wall structure. For example, the side face of the wall structure is charged, and the hyperbranched macromolecules electrostatically interact with the side face. Otherwise, the side face of the wall
5 structure has a hydrogen-bonding property, and the hyperbranched macromolecules hydrogen-bond with the side face.

The hyperbranched polymer layer may include a first hyperbranched polymer layer functioning as an electron transport layer or a hole transport layer and a second hyperbranched polymer layer functioning as at least a light
10 emitting layer. Naturally, the hyperbranched polymer layer may include a single layer having the functions of the electron transport layer, the hole transport layer and the light emitting layer, or may include three layers having the functions of the respective layers. Otherwise,
15 one hyperbranched polymer layer may have the function of the light emitting layer and the function of the electron transport layer or the hole transport layer.

The liquid crystal display of the present invention
20 includes any of the organic EL light emitting devices described above and a liquid crystal panel receiving polarized light emitted from the organic EL light emitting device and controlling the transmittance of the polarized

light.

In a preferred embodiment, the organic EL light emitting device includes a wall structure having a side face roughly perpendicular to a surface of the hyperbranched polymer layer, the hyperbranched macromolecules being aligned roughly in parallel with the side face by interaction with the wall structure, the liquid crystal panel has a plurality of pixels and a black matrix shading spaces between the plurality of pixels, and the wall structure of the organic EL light emitting device is formed to correspond to the black matrix of the liquid crystal panel.

The method for fabricating an organic EL light emitting device of the present invention is a method for fabricating an organic EL light emitting device having an organic EL light emitting layer and an electrode for applying a voltage to the organic EL light emitting layer, the organic EL light emitting device emitting polarized light. The method includes the steps of: (a) preparing a substrate having an electrode formed on its principal plane; (b) forming a wall structure on the principal plane, the wall structure having a side face roughly perpendicular to the principal plane; and (c) providing a material including hyperbranched macromolecules on the principal

plane to form the organic EL light emitting layer including a hyperbranched polymer layer having the hyperbranched macromolecules aligned roughly in parallel with the side face.

5 In a preferred embodiment, the step (b) includes the step of charging the side face, and the hyperbranched macromolecules are aligned roughly in parallel with the side face by electrostatic interaction with the side face. The method may further include the step of providing a material including other hyperbranched macromolecules electrostatically interacting with the previous hyperbranched macromolecules.

In another preferred embodiment, the step (b) includes the step of imparting a hydrogen-bonding property to the side wall, and the hyperbranched macromolecules are aligned roughly in parallel with the side wall by hydrogen bonding with the side face. The method may further include the step of providing a material including other hyperbranched macromolecules hydrogen-bonding with the previous hyperbranched macromolecules.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a conceptual view diagrammatically illus-

trating structures and classification of hyperbranched macromolecules.

FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view of a structure of a hyperbranched macromolecule used in the present invention.

5 FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the concept of the number of generations of a dendrimer.

FIGS. 4A, 4B and 4C are diagrammatic cross-sectional views of examples of an organic EL light emitting device of the present invention.

10 FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrammatic views of examples of an organic EL light emitting layer composed of a highly uniaxially-aligned hyperbranched polymer layer.

FIGS. 6A to 6D are diagrammatic views demonstrating a process of forming a highly uniaxially-aligned hyper-
15 branched polymer layer.

FIGS. 7A to 7E are diagrammatic views demonstrating a method for fabricating an organic EL light emitting device of an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8A is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a
20 liquid crystal display of an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 8B is a plan view showing placement of wall structures of an organic EL light emitting device included in the liquid crystal display.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, the constructions and functions of an organic EL light emitting device and a liquid crystal display using the same of preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the relevant drawings. It should be noted that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments to follow.

The organic EL light emitting device of an embodiment of the present invention includes an organic EL light emitting layer and an electrode for applying a voltage to the organic EL light emitting layer, as does a known organic EL light emitting device. The organic EL light emitting layer of the organic EL light emitting device of this embodiment includes a hyperbranched polymer layer in which hyperbranched macromolecules are uniaxially aligned with a degree of alignment of 0.95 or more. With this hyperbranched polymer layer, the organic EL light emitting device of this embodiment can emit polarized light having a higher emission polarization ratio (50:1 or more, for example) than that conventionally obtained.

The construction and function of the organic EL light emitting layer of the organic EL light emitting device of

this embodiment will be described in comparison with a conventional organic EL light emitting layer.

Conventionally, as an organic EL light emitting layer emitting polarized light, a liquid crystalline polymer
5 light emitting material is used as described in Applied Physics Letters, Vol. 76, No. 20, p. 2946 (2000), Applied Physics Letters, Vol. 74, No. 10, p. 1400 (1999) and the like. According to these publications, the emission polarization ratio is of the order of 10:1 to 20:1.

10 In general, the degree of alignment of a liquid crystal layer sandwiched by alignment films is known as about 0.8, and the degree of alignment and the emission polarization ratio (or distinction polarization ratio) have the relationship represented by equation (1).

15
$$R = (I_p - G \cdot I_v) / (I_p + 2G \cdot I_v) \quad (1)$$

where R is the degree of alignment, I_p is the intensity of emitted light (transmitted light) in the parallel direction, I_v is the intensity of emitted light (transmitted light) in the vertical direction, and G is a correction
20 factor (herein, $G = 1$).

Liquid crystal molecules express a property of being aligned because they have inter-molecular interactions that are not caused by covalent bonding (non-covalent

bonding interaction), such as the π - π interaction between aromatic atomic groups included in the liquid crystal molecules and the dipole-dipole interaction between other substituents. However, since the non-covalent bonding interactions acting between liquid crystal molecules are comparatively weak, it is difficult to enhance the degree of alignment to 0.9 or more.

The inventors of the present invention has found that the degree of alignment of molecules of the light emitting layer can be enhanced by use of hyperbranched macromolecules that have a non-covalent bonding interaction stronger than the π - π interaction and the dipole-dipole interaction. The present invention has been attained based on the above findings.

The hyperbranched macromolecule as used herein refers to a macromolecule that has at least one hyperbranched structural unit having a branched structure of an arbitrary shape. Herein, the "hyperbranched structural unit" is defined to include a dendrimer structural unit and a hyperbranched polymer structural unit as diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. 1. A dendrimer and a hyperbranched polymer are described in M. Kakimoto, "Kagaku", Vol. 50, p. 608 (1995) and "Kobunshi", Vol. 47, p. 804 (1998), for ex-

ample.

A hyperbranched structural unit 12 has one dendritic branching start point 13a. The number of branch points 13 included in the hyperbranched structural unit 12 is not limited. The hyperbranched structural unit 12 may have a single branch point 13 that is the dendritic branching start point 13a. The hyperbranched structural unit 12 may have a regular repetitive branched structure as the dendrimer structural unit, or may have an irregular repetitive branched structure as the hyperbranched polymer structural unit.

The hyperbranched macromolecule as used herein may have at least one hyperbranched structural unit 12 shown in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 2, however, a hyperbranched macromolecule 10 preferably has a plurality of hyperbranched structural units 12 (12a to 12c) coupled to a center structure (core) 14. In particular, the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 and self-organized structures of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 desirably have a molecular structure (symmetry) that facilitates uniaxial alignment. In view of this, the number of hyperbranched structural units 12 is preferably 3 or 4. The hyperbranched structural units 12 may be different from each

other, but are preferably the same from the standpoint of the symmetry of the structure. In particular, a disc-shaped or rod-shaped hyperbranched macromolecule 10 is preferred.

5 The hyperbranched macromolecule 10 shown in FIG. 2 has a structure in which the dendritic branching start points 13a of the three hyperbranched structural units 12a, 12b and 12c are coupled to a 3-functional atomic group as the center structure 14. The center structure 14 and the
10 hyperbranched structural units 12 are typically coupled together by covalent bonding, but non-covalent bonding such as hydrogen bonding and coordinate bonding may be adopted.

 The hyperbranched structural units 12a, 12b and 12c
15 may be different from one another, or may be the same. Preferably, the three hyperbranched structural units 12a, 12b and 12c are the same so as to provide the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 with the property of being uniaxially aligned. Note that in the following description,
20 the multi-functional atomic group as the center structure 14 is also denoted by the reference numeral 14.

 The hyperbranched macromolecule 10 used in the present invention may be a macromolecule of which the surface

has hole conductivity, electron conductivity or ion conductivity, a macromolecule having energy interaction between the surface and inside thereof, or a macromolecule of which dendrons (repeat units of the hyperbranched structural units) have carrier conductivity. When the surface of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 has carrier conductivity, carriers migrate by hopping between terminal groups having carrier conductivity. When dendrons have carrier conductivity, such as when dendrons have a structure having π electrons such as a π conjugated chain, carriers can also migrate between the center structure 14 and the hyperbranched structural units 12. In this case, the function possessed by the center structure 14 can be derived.

The center structure 14 of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10, coupled with an arbitrary number of dendritic branching start points 13a, is defined as the structure of the portion of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 other than all the hyperbranched structural units 12 formed from the dendritic branching start points 13a. Typically, the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 suitably used in the present invention has a plurality of hyperbranched structural units 12 placed around the center structure 14 forming a

highly symmetric stereo structure. Hence, the center structure **14** is located in the center of the stereo structure.

Examples of the multi-functional atomic group constituting the center structure **14** are: (1) an alkylene group non-substituted or substituted with a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, an acyl group, or a halogen atom such as a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom, having 1 to 20 carbon atom(s), in which a heteroatom such as O, NH, N(CH₃), S and SO₂ may be interposed; (2) an arylene group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms; (3) a group including such an alkylene group and arylene group coupled to each other; (4) a multivalent group from any of the groups (1) to (3) in which a hydrogen atom coupled to a carbon atom has been released; (5) a multivalent heterocyclic group; (6) a group including the multivalent heterocyclic group and a hydrocarbon group of any of the groups (1) to (4) coupled to each other; and (7) porphyrin and a porphyrin complex.

The dendron of the hyperbranched macromolecule **10** used in the present invention may be an aromatic group or an aliphatic group. More specifically, the dendron may be of a polymer structure such as an aromatic or aliphatic

polyether structure, an aromatic polyester structure, a polysiloxane structure, a polycarbosilane structure, a polyether amide structure, a polyamide amine structure and a polypropylene imine structure, or a conjugated polymer structure such as polyphenylene, polyphenylene vinylene and polyphenylene ethynylene. A heterocyclic group such as polythiophene, polythienylene vinylene, polypyrrole and polysilole may be included.

To impart carrier conductivity to the dendron, the dendron may have a π conjugated structure. Otherwise, as a hole conductive structure, a structure having a dialkylphenyl amine residue, a structure having a triphenyl amine residue, a phenanthroline residue, an imidazole residue and the like may be provided. As an electron conductive structure, a naphthalenetetracarboxylate diimide residue and the like may be provided. As an ion conductive structure, salt composed of anions of carboxylate and sulfonate functional groups and the like and cations of alkali metal, alkaline-earth metal and the like may be provided.

An atomic group (functional group) of other functionality may be introduced into the hyperbranched macromolecule, to obtain combined functions. For example, a group having fluorescence, a group having ultraviolet absorption

and the like may be introduced into the molecule. Specifically, a rhodamine pigment and the like may be introduced into the center structure of a dendrimer, for example.

5 The branched structure of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 used for the organic EL light emitting device of the present invention is not limited as long as it has the hyperbranched structural unit 12. However, from the standpoint of the symmetry of the molecular structure, the
10 hyperbranched macromolecule 10 is preferably a dendrimer. In the case of a dendrimer, the number of generations of the dendrimer as the hyperbranched macromolecule 10 is not particularly limited, but is typically 1 to 10 including those having large and/or long center structures 14. The
15 number of generations is preferably 2 to 8, more preferably 3 to 7, most preferably 3 to 5, in consideration of the density of terminal groups (terminals of the hyperbranched structural unit 12, that is, terminals constituting the surface of the hyperbranched macromolecule 10) and
20 the easiness of synthesis. The generation of a dendrimer refers to the order of regular branching as shown in FIG.
3.

The organic EL light emitting layer of the organic EL

light emitting device of this embodiment has a feature that it includes a hyperbranched polymer layer having hyperbranched macromolecules uniaxially aligned with a degree of alignment of 0.95 or more.

5 As used herein, the organic EL light emitting layer refers to a layer having the functions of a hole transport layer, an electron transport layer and a light emitting layer. For example, as shown in FIG. **4A**, an organic EL light emitting layer **3a** interposed between electrodes 1
10 and 2 includes a hole transport layer **4**, a light emitting layer **6** and an electron transport layer **8**. Alternatively, the organic EL light emitting layer may include a first layer **5** having the functions of the hole transport layer and the light emitting layer and the electron transport
15 layer **8** as shown as an organic EL light emitting layer **3b** in FIG. **4B**, or may include the hole transport layer **4** and a second layer **7** having the functions of the light emitting layer and the electron transport layer as shown as an organic EL light emitting layer **3c** in FIG. **4C**. Otherwise,
20 although not shown, the organic EL light emitting layer may include a single layer having all the functions of the hole transport layer, the electron transport layer and the light emitting layer.

The organic EL light emitting layer of the organic EL light emitting device of this embodiment includes a hyperbranched polymer layer as described above, It is therefore possible to obtain a hyperbranched polymer layer having a plurality of functions by appropriately selecting the center structure **14** and the atomic group of the hyperbranched structural unit **12** of the hyperbranched macromolecule **10** as described above. In the case that the organic EL light emitting layer is composed of a plurality of layers, all the layers are preferably formed of hyperbranched macromolecules. However, if at least the light emitting layer is a hyperbranched polymer layer having a high degree of alignment, a high emission polarization ratio can be obtained.

Examples of the hyperbranched polymer layer suitably used for the organic EL light emitting layer will be described with reference to FIGS. **5A** and **5B**.

A hyperbranched polymer layer **20a** shown in FIG. **5A** has rod-shaped self-organized structures **22a** formed by non-covalent bonding interaction of disc-shaped dendrimers **10a**. The self-organized structures **22a** are uniaxially aligned. The respective disc-shaped dendrimers **10a** are aligned so that the disc face is roughly normal to the

surface of a substrate **21**, and the center axes of the discs extend roughly in parallel with the surface of the substrate **21**.

A hyperbranched polymer layer **20b** shown in FIG. **5B**
5 has rod-shaped self-organized structures **22b** formed by non-covalent bonding interaction of rod-shaped dendrimers **10b**. The self-organized structures **22b** are uniaxially aligned. The respective rod-shaped dendrimers **10b** are aligned so that the cross section of the rod is roughly
10 normal to the surface of the substrate **21**, and the center axes of the rods extend roughly in parallel with the surface of the substrate **21**.

As shown in FIGS. **5A** and **5B**, disc-shaped or rod-shaped hyperbranched macromolecules are preferably used
15 because they can be easily uniaxially aligned with a high degree of alignment. It is however possible to use hyperbranched macromolecules having any other three-dimensional shape such as a sphere. In any case, dendrimers are preferably used as the hyperbranched macromolecules from the
20 standpoint of the symmetry.

The center portion (the center structure **14** in FIG. **2**) of each of the disc-shaped dendrimers **10a** and the rod-shaped dendrimers **10b** has a luminescent pigment (atomic

group). Preferred examples of the luminescent pigment are luminescent pigments having high planarity, such as benzene, naphthalene, anthracene, phenanthrene, pyrene, perylene, an aluminum-quinoline complex, oligofluorene, 5 oligothiophene, oligophenylene, vinylene, Spiro-NPB, Spiro-TAD and Spiro-DPVBi, although not limited to these materials.

Each dendron portion has an atomic group that allows expression of strong non-covalent bonding interaction between dendrimers. In particular, an atomic group for expressing electrostatic interaction or an atomic group having hydrogen bonding is preferred. 10

As an atomic group having positive charge (cationic atomic group), ammonium salt and pyridinium salt may be suitably used. As an atomic group having negative charge (anionic atomic group), a sulfonate group and a carboxylate group may be suitably used. As a hydrogen-bonding atomic group, a carboxyl group and an amino group may be suitably used. 15

The number of layers constituting the organic EL light emitting layer can be reduced by introducing an electron or hole transport atomic group into the outermost shell of each dendron (surface side of the molecule). By 20

reducing the number of layers, the number of steps of the fabrication process can be reduced. A carbazole type is typical as the electron transport atomic group, and an arylamine type and an oxadiazole type are typical as the
5 hole transport atomic group.

The hyperbranched macromolecules described above can be synthesized by a divergent method in which synthesis proceeds from the center toward the outer periphery, or by a convergent method in which synthesis proceeds from the
10 outer periphery toward the center.

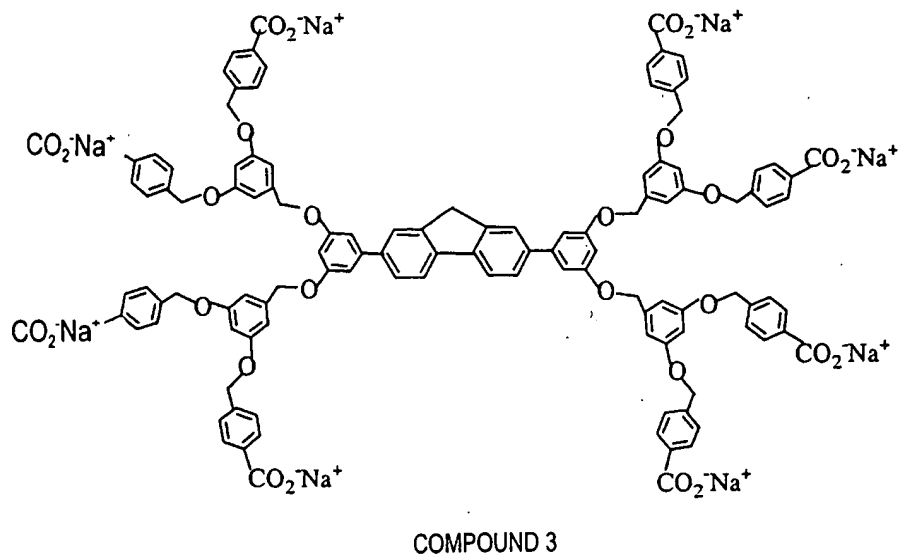
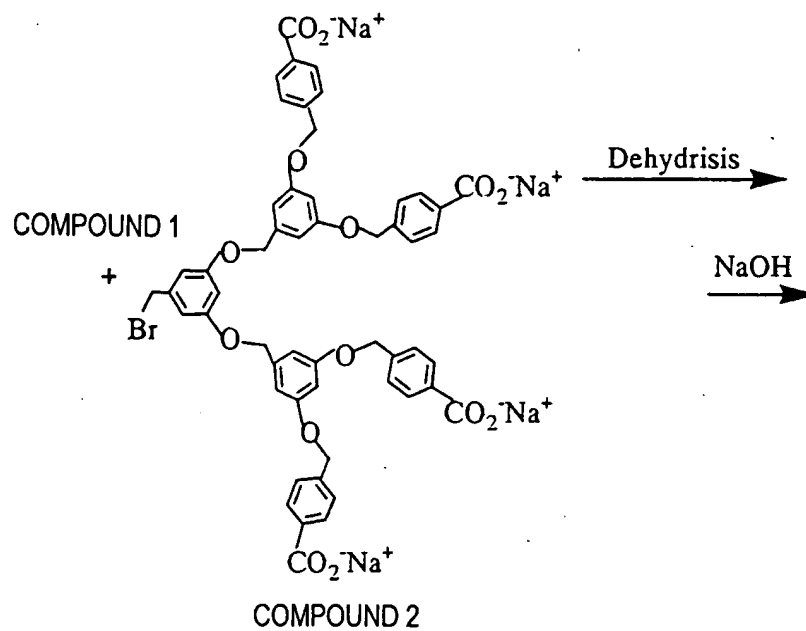
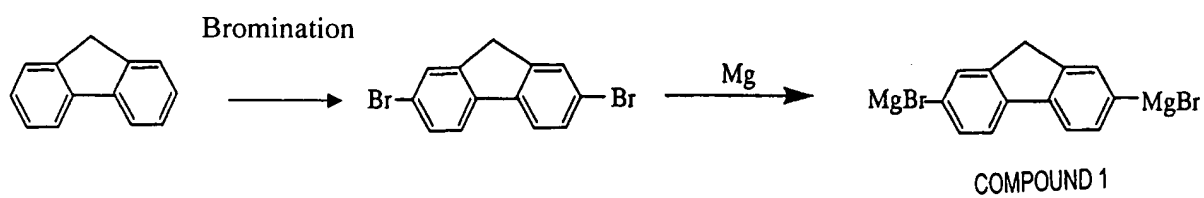
Hereinafter, an example of synthesis of benzyl ether type dendrimers having fluorene as a blue luminescent pigment in the center and charge in the outermost shell (molecule surface) will be described.

15 First, the fluorene structure in the center is brominated and then subjected to Grignard reaction according to Scheme 1 shown below, to obtain Compound 1.

Thereafter, Compound 1 is made to react with a benzyl ether type dendron (Compound 2), and then methyl ester
20 groups are hydrolyzed and carboxylated, to obtain a dendrimer (Compound 3). The dendron (Compound 2) can be synthesized by a method described in Journal of the American Chemical Society, 122, p. 3232 (2000), Journal of the

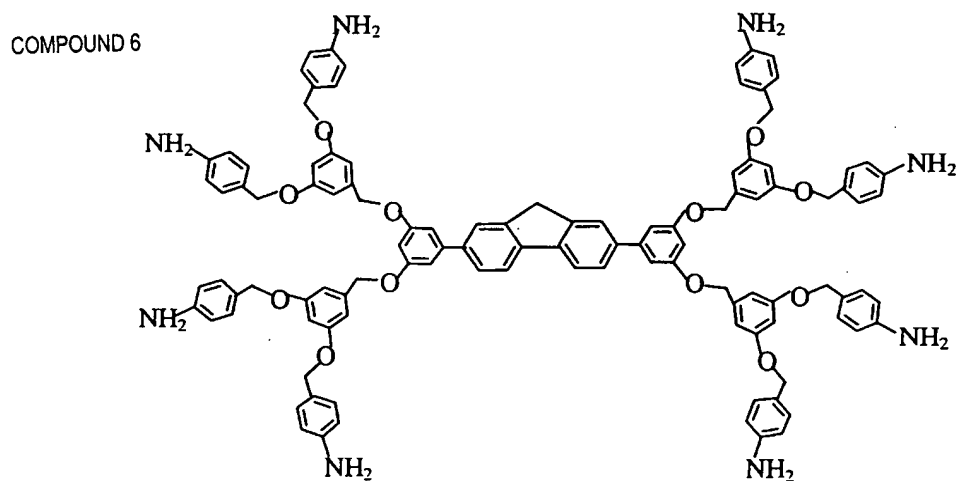
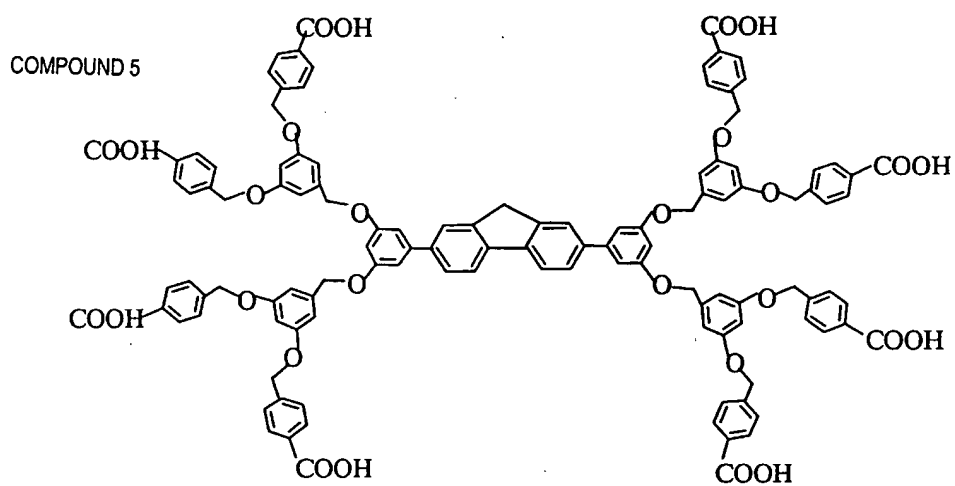
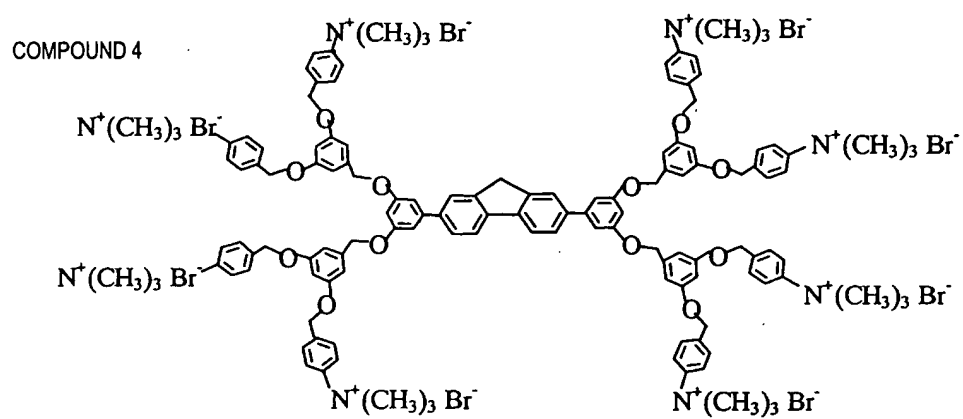
American Chemical Society, 112, p. 7638 (1990), Journal of the American Chemical Society, 123, pp. 1302-1315 (2001), for example.

Scheme 1



A dendrimer (Compound 4) having positive charge in the outermost shell and dendrimers (Compounds 5 and 6) having a hydrogen-bonding residue can also be synthesized according to Scheme 2 shown below by a synthesis method similar to that described above.

Scheme 2



Hereinafter, a method for uniaxially aligning the hyperbranched macromolecules with a high degree of alignment as shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B will be described with reference to FIGS. 6A to 6D.

5 In this embodiment, a wall structure having a side face roughly perpendicular to the surface of the hyperbranched polymer layer is formed, and using non-covalent bonding interaction between the wall structure and the hyperbranched macromolecules, the hyperbranched macromolecules are aligned in parallel with one another and roughly
10 in parallel with the side face of the wall structure. The non-covalent bonding interaction acting between the wall structure and the hyperbranched macromolecules is preferably strong as is the non-covalent bonding interaction acting
15 between the hyperbranched macromolecules, and is preferably electrostatic interaction or hydrogen bonding.

FIGS. 6A to 6D illustrate uniaxial alignment of the hyperbranched macromolecules 10 using electrostatic interaction as an example.

20 First, as shown in FIG. 6A, a wall structure 35 is formed on the surface of the substrate 21. For example, the wall structure 35 is formed by forming a film of a polymer material on the surface of the substrate 21 and

patterning the polymer film. In particular, by use of a photosensitive polymer material, the wall structure 35 can be formed easily by a photolithographic process. Examples of the polymer material include an acrylic resin, an epoxy resin, a novolac resin, a polyimide resin and the like. If transparency is desired for the wall structure 35, an acrylic resin is preferred. If high mechanical strength is desired, an epoxy resin, a novolac resin or a polyimide resin is preferred. To charge the side face of the wall structure 35, macromolecules or low molecular weight molecules having charge are mixed in the polymer material.

Thereafter, as shown in FIG. 6B, a dendrimer 10 having charge in the outermost shell opposite in polarity to the surface charge of the wall structure 35 is placed on the substrate 21. For example, a solution of this dendrimer 10 is applied to the substrate 21 on which the wall structure 35 is formed. A dipping or ink-jet method is preferably employed to apply the solution.

The dendrimer 10 is placed roughly in parallel with the charged side face of the wall structure 35, that is, roughly normal to the surface of the substrate 21 due to electrostatic interaction. Subsequently, a solution of a dendrimer 10 having charge opposite in polarity to the

dendrimer 10 previously applied is applied. The presently-applied dendrimer forms a self-organized structure due to electrostatic interaction with the previously-applied dendrimer. By repeating this operation alternately as shown in FIG. 6C and 6D, a hyperbranched polymer layer arranged by electrostatic interaction can be formed. The two types of dendrimers may be provided at one time by applying a mixture of dendrimers having charge of the opposite polarities.

10 By aligning the dendrimers roughly in parallel with the side face of the wall structure 35 using electrostatic interaction and forming self-organized structures of dendrimers as described above, it is possible to form a light emitting layer having a degree of alignment (0.95 or more) higher than the conventional light emitting layer formed using liquid crystallinity, and thus the emission polarization ratio can be improved.

It is also possible to form a hyperbranched polymer layer having a high degree of alignment using hydrogen bonding in a manner similar to that described above. A hydrogen-bonding atomic group is introduced to impart the hydrogen-bonding property to the side face of the wall structure 35. A combination of a carboxyl group and an

amino group may be used as the hydrogen-bonding atomic groups. Specifically, the substrate **21** having the wall structure **35** thereon is dipped into a solution of a dendrimer having a carboxyl group in the outermost shell and
5 a solution of a dendrimer having an amino group in the outermost shell alternately, to form the hyperbranched polymer layer uniaxially aligned with a high degree of alignment by hydrogen bonding. Alternatively, a mixture of a pair of dendrimers having hydrogen-bonding atomic
10 groups may be applied.

Hereinafter, a further concrete embodiment of the present invention will be described.

In this embodiment, a light emitting layer having a high degree of alignment is formed using fluorene type
15 dendrimers having negative charge in the outermost shell (Compound 3) and fluorene type dendrimers having positive charge in the outermost shell (Compound 4) by electrostatic interaction.

First, as shown in FIG. **7A**, a substrate (glass substrate, for example) **21** is prepared.
20

As shown in FIG. **7B**, an electrode **31** is formed on a surface of the substrate **21**. The electrode (positive electrode, for example) **31** is formed of ITO, for example.

To impart the reflecting property, the electrode 31 may be formed of a metal material such as Al, or a reflection layer may be formed under the electrode 31, as required.

As shown in FIG. 7C, wall structures 35 are formed on the surface of the substrate 21 on which the electrode 31 is formed. The wall structures 35 may be formed on the electrode 31, or formed on openings of the electrode 31 if the electrode 31 is patterned (corresponding to pixels, for example). The wall structures 35 are formed by the method described above with reference to FIG. 6A.

In this embodiment, the wall structures 35 having negative charge on the surface are formed by applying an acrylic resin with an anionic surfactant introduced therein to the ITO substrate by spin coating and then patterning the acrylic resin film using a resist.

Thereafter, as shown in FIG. 7D, a hole transport layer 32 is formed. For example, the hole transport layer 32 is formed by applying a polyethylene-dioxy thiophene (PEDOT)/polystyrene sulfonate (PSS) solution to the resultant substrate by an ink-jet method and then performing sintering.

Thereafter, the resultant substrate is dipped into a solution of the fluorene type dendrimers having positive

charge in the outermost shell (Compound 4), and then dipped into a solution of the fluorene type dendrimers having negative charge in the outermost shell (Compound 3). By repeating this operation, a dendrimer light emitting layer 33 is formed in which the dendrimers are aligned to stand roughly normal to the surface of the electrode 31. Excessive dendrimers of one polarity should preferably be removed before the substrate is dipped into the dendrimer solution of the opposite polarity by immersing the substrate into a solvent (water in this example). Such excessive dendrimers can be more reliably removed as the immersion time is longer. In this example, the substrate is immersed in water for about five minutes to remove excessive dendrimers, and then dipped into the dendrimer solution having the opposite charge. The step of removing excessive dendrimers should also preferably be performed when dendrimers hydrogen-bonding to each other are used.

The resultant dendrimer light emitting layer 33 includes dendrimers uniaxially aligned with a high degree of alignment by the electrostatic interactions between the wall structures 35 and the dendrimers and between the dendrimers. This dendrimer layer provides an emission polarization ratio of 99:1 or more as evaluated using the

fluorescence intensity at 450 nm. The degree of alignment of the dendrimer light emitting layer **33** is 0.97 or more. Note that the dendrimer light emitting layer **33** also functions as the electron transport layer.

5 As shown in FIG. **7E**, an electrode **34** is formed on the dendrimer light emitting layer **33**. The electrode (negative electrode, for example) **34** is formed by evaporation of a Li-Al film, for example. Thereafter, the resultant substrate is subjected to sealing for protection of the
10 organic EL light emitting layer (including **32** and **35**) and other processing, to complete the organic EL light emitting device. The resultant organic EL light emitting device maintains the emission polarization ratio described above, and the degree of alignment of the dendrimer light
15 emitting layer **33** is kept unchanged after the formation of the electrode **34**.

The dendrimer light emitting layer **33** having a high degree of alignment can also be formed using the hydrogen-bonding fluorene type dendrimer compounds **5** and **6** in a
20 manner similar to that described above.

For example, in the process step shown in FIG. **7C**, an acrylic resin with polyacrylic acid introduced therein is applied to the substrate **21** by spin coating and then pat-

terned using a resist, to form the wall structures **35** having carboxylic acid on the surface.

As described above with reference to FIG. **7D**, the hole transport layer **32** is formed using PEDOT/PSS, and then the resultant substrate is dipped into a solution of fluorene type dendrimers having an amino group in the outermost shell and then dipped into a solution of fluorene type dendrimers having a carboxylic acid in the outermost shell. By repeating this operation, the dendrimer light emitting layer **33** is formed in which the dendrimers are axially aligned with a high degree of alignment by hydrogen bonding.

The dendrimer light emitting layer **33** formed in the above manner also provides an emission polarization ratio of 99:1 or more, and has a degree of alignment of 0.97 or more. The degree of alignment does not decrease after the formation of the Li-Al electrode **34** on the dendrimer light emitting layer **33**.

For comparison, formation of an organic EL light emitting layer using conventional materials will be described.

A poly-p-phenylene vinylene film as the hole transport layer is formed on the surface of the substrate on

which the ITO electrode is formed. The poly-p-phenylene vinylene film is rubbed, and then a light emitting layer is formed on this film using polyoctylfluorene.

The emission polarization ratio of the thus-obtained
5 light emitting layer is about 92:8 as evaluated using the fluorescence intensity at 450 nm. The degree of alignment of the light emitting layer is about 0.78.

As is found from the above results, an organic EL light emitting layer uniaxially aligned with a high degree
10 of alignment is obtained by using the strong non-covalent bonding interaction of the hyperbranched macromolecules.

The materials used for the electrodes of the organic EL light emitting device of the present invention are not limited to those described above. As the positive electrode material, a transparent conductive material such as
15 ZnO and SnO₂ may be used. As the negative electrode material, an alloy material such as a Mg-Ag alloy and a Mg-In alloy may be suitably used. These metal materials have a work function allowing high-efficiency emission. These
20 electrodes can be formed by sputtering, vacuum evaporation or the like.

Next, referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, a liquid crystal display 100 having the organic EL light emitting device

described above will be described.

The liquid crystal display 100 includes the organic EL light emitting device 30 described above and a liquid crystal panel 40 integrally formed therewith. The organic EL light emitting device 30 functions as the backlight of the liquid crystal display 100. The organic EL light emitting device 30 and the liquid crystal panel 40 share a substrate 21B, and no polarizer is provided therebetween.

The organic EL light emitting device 30 includes a substrate 21A, a reflection layer 37, an electrode (positive electrode) 31, an organic EL light emitting layer 33, another electrode (negative electrode) 34 and the substrate 21B placed in this order. The organic EL light emitting layer 33 is in the uniaxially aligned state obtained by use of wall structures 35 as described above. The reflection layer 37 may be omitted.

The liquid crystal panel 40, which can be any of various types of known liquid crystal panels, includes the substrate 21B, pixel electrodes 41, one of paired alignment films 42, a liquid crystal layer 43, the other alignment film 42, a counter electrode 44, a color filter layer 45, a substrate 21C and a polarizer 23, for example, placed in this order. The liquid crystal layer 43 is a TN

liquid crystal layer, for example. The polarization plate
23 has its transmission axis orthogonal to the polariza-
tion axis of linearly-polarized light emitted from the or-
ganic EL light emitting device 30. The liquid crystal
5 panel performs display in the normally white mode. Inter-
connections and switch elements (TFTs, for example) for
applying voltages to the pixel electrodes 41 and the coun-
ter electrode 44 are placed as required. The color filter
layer 45 includes color filter portions 45b corresponding
10 to R, G and B colors and a black matrix 45a for shading
inter-pixel spaces.

The wall structures 35 for control of the alignment
of the organic EL light emitting layer 33 are preferably
placed to correspond to the black matrix 45a. In other
15 words, the organic EL light emitting layer 33 is placed to
correspond to the pixels (openings) so that light from the
organic EL light emitting layer 33 is not blocked by the
black matrix 45b. In this way, the light use efficiency
can be enhanced. For example, as shown in FIG. 8B, the
20 wall structures 35 are formed in a striped shape along the
arrangement of the pixels to correspond to inter-pixel
spaces. The wall structures 35 are not necessarily formed
to correspond to the respective pixels as shown in FIG. 8A,

but a plurality of pixels may exist between the adjacent wall structures 35. If the wall structures 35 are formed of a transparent resin, loss of light will be advantageously small even if a displacement occurs during the alignment between the organic EL light emitting device 30 and the liquid crystal panel 40.

As described above, by using the organic EL light emitting device of the present invention as the backlight of a liquid crystal display, one polarizer can be omitted. In addition, since the emission polarization ratio of light emitted from the organic EL light emitting device is 50:1 or more, a contrast ratio (100:1, for example) higher than that conventionally obtained is attained.

15 INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The organic EL light emitting device of the present invention can be used, not only as the backlight of a liquid crystal display, but also as a laser and an actuator.

According to the present invention, an organic EL light emitting device having a higher emission polarization ratio than that conventionally obtained is provided. By using the organic EL light emitting device as the backlight of a liquid crystal display, one polarizer can be

omitted and the contrast ratio of the liquid crystal display can be improved.